

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3512

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Social Security Number Protection Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PROHIBIT THE DISPLAY OF SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS ON MEDICARE IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED TO MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish and begin to implement procedures to eliminate the unnecessary collection, use, and display of social security account numbers of Medicare beneficiaries.

(b) MEDICARE CARDS AND COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED TO BENEFICIARIES.—

(1) CARDS.—

(A) NEW CARDS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that each newly issued Medicare identification card meets the requirements described in subparagraph (C).

(B) REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CARDS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that all Medicare beneficiaries have been issued a Medicare identification card that meets the requirements of subparagraph (C).

(C) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements described in this subparagraph are, with respect to a Medicare identification card, that the card does not display or electronically store (in an unencrypted format) a Medicare beneficiary's social security account number.

(2) COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED TO BENEFICIARIES.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall prohibit the display of a Medicare beneficiary's social security account number on written or electronic communication provided to the beneficiary unless the Secretary determines that inclusion of social security account numbers on such communications is essential for the operation of the Medicare program.

(c) MEDICARE BENEFICIARY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Medicare beneficiary” means an individual who is entitled to, or enrolled for, benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act or enrolled under part B of such title.

(d) CONFORMING REFERENCE IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 205(c)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(c)(2)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(x) For provisions relating to requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prohibit the display of social security account numbers on Medicare identification cards and communications provided to Medicare beneficiaries, see section 2 of the Social Security Number Protection Act of 2008.”.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 663—EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE CURRENT FEDERAL POLICY THAT ALLOWS THE EXPORTATION OF TOXIC ELECTRONIC WASTE TO DEVELOPING NATIONS, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD JOIN OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS AND BAN THE EXPORTATION OF TOXIC ELECTRONIC WASTE TO DEVELOPING NATIONS

Mr. BROWN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 663

Whereas toxic electronic waste is generated from discarded televisions and computer monitors, computers and peripherals, audio and video equipment, wireless devices, fax and copy machines, video game consoles, and other electronic appliances and products;

Whereas televisions with cathode ray tubes (CRTs) contain between 4 and 15 pounds of lead, a toxic substance known to cause brain damage in children;

Whereas many laptops, flat panel monitors, and televisions contain fluorescent lamps that contain mercury, a dangerous neurotoxin;

Whereas many electronic products contain toxic chemicals such as lead, mercury, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, and brominated flame retardants;

Whereas approximately 2,630,000 tons of used or unwanted electronics were discarded in the United States in 2005, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);

Whereas approximately 330,000 tons of electronic waste were collected and diverted from landfills for reuse or recycling in 2005, according to the EPA;

Whereas an estimated 50 percent to 80 percent of electronic waste collected for reuse or recycling is exported to countries such as China, India, Ghana, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Thailand, according to the Department of Commerce;

Whereas approximately 131,500 tons of lead-containing CRTs were exported in 2005, representing 75 percent of the CRTs supposedly collected for recycling, according to the EPA;

Whereas Congress has required the Nation's broadcasters to convert from analog to digital broadcasting on February 17, 2009, a move which will render millions of analog CRT televisions obsolete for broadcasting and likely to be discarded;

Whereas exported electronic waste is often crudely scrapped and dismantled under conditions that are dangerous for human health and the environment in developing countries, according to eyewitness reports by the Basel Action Network and several media outlets including National Geographic Magazine;

Whereas toxic lead from exported electronic waste has returned to the United States as a public health threat in children's jewelry made in China, according to a study by Ashland University, reported by the Wall Street Journal;

Whereas the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued multiple recall notices for jewelry and toys for children made in China that contained dangerous levels of lead;

Whereas 32 nations, including the member States of the European Union, have banned the export of toxic electronic waste to developing countries;

Whereas several major information technology and consumer electronics manufacturers have corporate policies that prohibit the export of toxic electronic waste to developing nations;

Whereas the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, prohibits the export of hazardous waste from the United States to other nations unless the EPA obtains prior written permission from the other nation's competent authority; and

Whereas the EPA has determined that much electronic waste is excluded or exempted from the definitions of “waste” and “hazardous waste” under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, leading to the largely unrestricted export of toxic electronic waste to developing nations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its concern over the current Federal policy that allows the exportation of toxic electronic waste to developing nations; and

(2) supports joining other developed nations and banning the export of toxic electronic waste to developing nations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 664—CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF UNION STATION IN WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mrs. DOLE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 664

Whereas, on February 28, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt signed into law the act entitled “An Act to provide a union railroad station in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes”, and Daniel Burnham, a noted architect from Chicago, Illinois, was chosen to design the building;

Whereas, on October 27, 1907, Union Station officially opened at 6:50 a.m. when the Baltimore and Ohio Pittsburgh Express pulled in to the station;

Whereas the building was ultimately completed in 1908;

Whereas, in 1924, 5,000 cheering fans met the victorious Washington Nationals at Union Station after they defeated the Boston Red Sox to capture the American League pennant;

Whereas, in 1951, President Harry Truman dedicated the Presidential Suite at Union Station as a “home away from home” for members of the Armed Services;

Whereas, in 1968, in preparation for the bicentennial of the United States, the decision was made to transform the building into a National Visitor Center;

Whereas Congress then passed the Union Station Redevelopment Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-125; 95 Stat. 1667) to return Union Station to its original use as a transportation center;

Whereas, in 1983, the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation was created to oversee the development of the station into an operating railroad station, to restore the architectural and historical elements of the structure, to explore collaboration with the private sector in the commercial development of the station, and to withdraw the Federal Government from active management of the station;

Whereas the renovation and restoration of Union Station began on August 13, 1986, with the ringing of an old train bell;